

Jan 26, 2006 Panel: Patient Care Perspectives
VA Geriatrics & Extended Care Perspective of Caregiver Support

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- A. Long-Term Care does not mean Nursing Home - emphasis on non-institutional LTC
- B. Continuum of care – spectrum of services to support care in the least restrictive setting. A few examples -
 - a. VA Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC) – for persons with complex chronic disease; care is longitudinal, comprehensive and interdisciplinary
 - b. Adult Day Health Care
 - c. Geriatric Evaluation and Management
 - d. Homemaker/Home Health Aide
 - e. Respite – inpatient or home
 - f. Hospice and palliative care
- C. Integral role of caregiver in keeping patient at home
 - a. Many need 24 hour supervision
 - b. Many need daily personal care and assistance
 - c. Dependent in activities of daily living
 - d. Reliant on CG for medication management and compliance
 - e. Reliant on CG for critical communications
 - f. Reliant on CG as health care partner to carry out treatment plan
 - g. Angels of love
- D. Services to support caregiver
 - a. HBPC – caregiver training in the home; responsive; coordination
 - b. HBPC and dementia care results: less caregiver strain despite no change in problem behaviors
 - c. Respite – through ADHC, HHA, inpatient and home respite.
 - d. Hospice – care in preferred setting; peaceful transition; follow-up bereavement
- E. Issues and Directions
 - a. Respite - How can we make home respite more available?
 - b. Rural – How to expand access to home care, to ADHC, to respite
 - c. Identify caregiver needs – Quality Measure in HBPC
 - d. Maximize the potential of volunteers
 - e. Veterans needing caregivers – imagine Medical Foster Home